

this year on January 17. It was referred to Miscellaneous Subjects, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments by the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee pending.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner, would you take the amendments.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee adopted a committee amendment. As the bill originally was drafted it put a five cent per gallon tax on wine produced by farm wineries. What this committee amendment does is changes that from 5 to 25 cents. We didn't think that five cents a gallon was enough. The tax on just regular wine that is sold in Nebraska, I believe, runs around \$2.50 a gallon. So this would just increase it from 5 cents a gallon to 25 cents a gallon, which the committee felt was fair and reasonable. I would move that the committee amendment be adopted.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten. May we have order in the Chamber, please. Lower your conversation level a little bit, please. (Gavel.) Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would rise in opposition to the committee amendments for a couple of very basic reasons. First of all, we have given an incentive to industry to open up in Nebraska or move to Nebraska in other areas. This is an industry that is relatively new that will be, if taken advantage of, quite an asset, not only in the sale of the product that it would produce, but to the monies that the tourists would be stopping to visit these little wineries and leave some extra money in Nebraska. The start-up costs are pretty substantial, particularly for small operations, as these would be. While I'm not opposed to try and raising revenue, I think in order to get this started and get it off the ground we should give them as much of a break as we possibly can. It would seem to me that raising this five times what we put in originally is just going a little bit too far to encourage these small operators to establish a winery and get it off the ground in Nebraska. For those reasons, I would hope that you would not accept the committee amendments, and would accept the bill as it was originally introduced, and move it forward. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, on the committee amendments,